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Send the information via mail to Blaine Corren, *Court News*, Administrative Office of the Courts, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102-3660, phone: 415-865-7449; fax: 415-865-4334; e-mail: blaine.corren@jud.ca.gov.

Nominations Open for Kleps Awards

The Judicial Council is accepting applications for the 2001 Ralph N. Kleps Awards for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts. These annual awards were created in 1991 in honor of Ralph N. Kleps, the first administrative director of the California courts. They pay tribute to the contributions of individual courts to the administration of justice.

The awards are given in five categories, as follows:

- Category 1 Counties with 2 to 4 authorized judicial positions (AJPs)
- Category 2 Counties with 5 to 14 AJPs
- Category 3 Counties with 15 to 49 AJPs
- Category 4 Counties with 50 or more AJPs
- Category 5 Projects that involve two or more counties working in collaboration on a single program

Programs nominated for Kleps awards are judged on the following criteria:

1. The program improves the administration of the courts and reflects the intent of at least one of the goals of the Judicial Council's Strategic Plan (access, fairness, and diversity; independence and accountability; modernization; quality of justice and service to the public; education; and technology).

2. The program is innovative.
3. The program is transferable to other courts.
4. The program must have been in operation for at least one year.

The California Judicial Administration Conference (CJAC) Planning Committee will review nominations and submit recommendations to the Judicial Council, which will determine the award recipients at its November 30 meeting. Committee members and staff plan to make site visits to courts that have applied for Kleps awards. The visits will help the committee make informed recommendations to the council.

Applications were sent out in June and are *due by August 8*. The awards will be presented at CJAC—scheduled for late January 2002—where award recipients will be invited to demonstrate and/or display their projects.

● For more information, contact Sandy Claire, 415-865-7632; e-mail: sandy.claire@jud.ca.gov.

Send applications to:

Administrative Office of the Courts
Attn: Sandy Claire, Trial Court Programs Division
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3660

Court Briefs

Comment Sought on New Civil Jury Instructions

On May 7, as part of California's jury reform project, the Judicial Council's Task Force on Jury Instructions released 304 pages of new civil jury instructions for public comment. The draft instructions are designed to be more readily understandable than before, while accurately stating the law.

This is the second set of civil jury instructions to be circulated among California judges, bar associations, law school professors, and other interested parties. The initial set, released in May 2000, represented approximately one-third of the total of civil and criminal jury instructions used by California courts (see story in the July–August 2000 *Court News*). Both sets of draft instructions were sent out for comment only and have not been approved for official use.

"We received many positive and helpful comments on our first set of proposed civil jury instructions," says Justice James D. Ward of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two (Riverside), who serves as vice-chair of the task force and chair of the civil jury instructions subcommittee. "We look forward to receiving further comments from the bench and bar on this second set of instructions."

"We continue in our efforts to make California's jury instructions both legally accurate and easily understandable," says Justice Carol A. Corrigan of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three (San Francisco), who chairs the task force and its subcommittee on criminal jury instructions. "Comments by the bench and bar are important parts of this project. Judges and lawyers around the state have been most generous with their time and insight."

The task force plans to send the third and final set of new civil instructions out for comment in October. After evaluating the public's comments and making any necessary revisions, it anticipates presenting a new, complete set of jury instructions to the Judicial Council for its review in 2002.

The latest set of draft jury instructions is available on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment. The task force is seeking responses regarding style, format, legal accuracy, clarity, and usefulness of accompanying notes and commentary. Comments should be sent by August 15, 2001, to:

Administrative Office of the Courts
Attn: Camilla Kieliger
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3660



(Left to right) Susan Null, Louis McMurray, and Lesley Duncan.

MILESTONES

Three Californians are among the 35 new fellows who have completed the Court Executive Development Program, sponsored by the Institute for Court Management (ICM) of the National Center for State Courts. They are: **Louis McMurray**, Division Chief in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County's Citrus courthouse; **Susan Null**, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Shasta County; and **Lesley Duncan**, Supervising Court Services Analyst for the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The graduates join 945 other ICM fellows who include state and federal court administrators, court clerks, fiscal officers, technology managers, judicial educators, officers of national court associations, and other judicial leaders working in courts in 47 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, Canada, and other nations.

The Court Executive Development Program provides training in leadership and judicial administration. To graduate from the program, applicants must complete six courses in court operations, a three-week seminar, an independent court

study project and report, and a concluding one-week seminar.

Superior Court of San Bernardino County **Judge Joseph E. Johnston** has received the 2001 Judicial Civility Award from the San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and was one of three honorees to receive the 2001 Kaufman-Campbell Award, presented by the San Bernardino County Bar Association.

The Judicial Civility Award honors judges for the civility of their courtrooms and for making attorneys feel welcome, according to ABOTA President Jeffrey Raynes. The Kaufman-Campbell Award recognizes jurists who have distinguished themselves through their work on the bench, in the community, and in the practice of law.

The **State Bar of California** will receive the American Bar Association's Harrison Tweed Award during the national association's annual meeting in August. The Harrison Tweed Award was created in 1956 to recognize the extraordinary achievements of state and local bar associations that develop or significantly expand projects or programs to increase access to civil legal services for poor persons or increase criminal defense services for indigents.

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CJER Satellite Broadcast



The Judicial Council produced its first satellite broadcast on Friday, May 25, at its studio in the state conference center. The two-hour educational session provided judges and court staffs throughout the state with information about jury service and strategies for improving the trial process. More than 320 judges at 13 downlink sites across the state viewed the broadcast.

Court Briefs

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To expand access to the legal system, the State Bar of California launched a multifaceted bench-bar program in 1996, beginning with the establishment of the Access to Justice Commission. Since 1999, the State Bar and the commission have worked with the Judicial Council, the Legislature, and the Governor’s Office to establish the Equal Access Fund, the first-ever state appropriation for legal services.

The U.S. Navy presented **Cynthia Barrajas**, a court operations clerk for the Superior Court of San Diego County, with a framed proclamation and a

crystal award recognizing her outstanding customer service. Navy recruiter Tony Peraza and his commanding officer honored her with the award for her assistance in checking the backgrounds of naval recruits.

At the superior court’s misdemeanor expungement desk and criminal counter, Ms. Barrajas and her co-workers process two to five background checks of felony, misdemeanor, and traffic records for the Navy daily (normally within 24 hours). Mr. Peraza, in a letter addressed to the court, praised Ms. Barrajas’s work and commented that “she is prompt and extremely helpful. She has a great sense of professionalism and an unmatched ability to help us out in our times of need.” ■

Judicial Appointments

The Governor announced the following appointments in May and June 2001.

Donald R. Alvarez to the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, succeeding John W. Kennedy, retired.

Steven R. Denton to the Superior Court of San Diego County, succeeding Peter Riddle, retired.

David L. DeVore to the Superior Court of Alpine County, succeeding Thomas M. Kelly, retired.

John W. Kennedy to the

Superior Court of Contra Costa County, succeeding Mark B. Simons, who was appointed to the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District.

Catherine D. Purcell to the Superior Court of Kern County, filling a newly created judgeship.

Valeriano Saucedo to the Superior Court of Tulare County, succeeding Howard Broadman, retired.

Martin J. Tangeman to the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County, succeeding

Barry Hammer, retired.

Mary E. Wiss to the Superior Court of San Francisco County, succeeding Laurence D. Kay, who was appointed to the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District.

Margie G. Woods to the Superior Court of San Diego County, succeeding Richard Murphy, retired.

The following court executive officer has been appointed since May 1.

Michael D. Planet, Superior Court of Ventura County, succeeding Sheila Gonzalez. ■

Getting in Touch

Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3660

CALIFORNIA COURTS WEB SITE
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

The area code for the following is 415 except as indicated.

MAIN NUMBER
865-4200

GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION and QUESTIONS
865-7740, pubinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov

JOB HOTLINE—Administrative Office of the Courts
865-4369, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jobs/

JOB HOTLINE—Habeas Corpus Resource Center
865-4314

MEDIA RELATIONS, MEDIA REQUESTS
865-7740

PUBLICATIONS—REQUESTS
865-7740, 800-900-5980,
pubinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov

DIVISION/UNIT
CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS: 865-7739, 865-7569

EDUCATION DIVISION: 865-7745

EXECUTIVE OFFICE: 865-4240, 865-4241
Administrative Support Unit: 865-4211
Appellate Court Services: 865-4250

FINANCE DIVISION: 865-7960
Trial Court Budget Support: 865-7541
Trial Court Fiscal Services: 865-759

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION: 865-4260
Trial Court Assistance Unit: 865-4269

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION: 865-7400

JUDICIAL COUNCIL SERVICES: 865-7737
Office of Communications: 865-7740
Research and Planning: 865-7454
Secretariat and Conference Services: 865-7640

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL: 865-7446

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:
916-323-3121

TRIAL COURT PROGRAMS DIVISION: 865-7530

BY SUBJECT

Access, fairness, and diversity: 865-7671,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/access/

Appellate courts, services to
Appellate education: 865-7823, 865-4255
Appellate procedures: 865-7583
Appellate rules: 865-7583
Appointed appellate counsel: 865-4250
California Rules of Court: 865-7681,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/

Cameras in court: 865-7653
Cameras in court form (requests from media): 865-7734, 865-7726

Comment, invitations to:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/
Court community outreach: 865-7709,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/outreach.htm

Court employees:
www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/tcemployees/
Court facilities: 865-7959
Task Force on Court Facilities
www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/facilities/

Court interpreters: 865-7599,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/
Drug courts: 865-7632,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/drugcourts/

Education
Court employees: 865-7745,
jaicinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
Judges

Programs: 865-7745,
cjerinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
Publications: 865-7805,
cjerpubs@courtinfo.ca.gov
Videotapes: 865-7792,
cjertapes@courtinfo.ca.gov

Ethics: 865-7799
Family and juvenile law
Center for Families, Children & the Courts: 865-7739, 865-7569,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/childrenandthecourts/

Access grants: 865-7585
Child support: 865-7619
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program: 865-7704
Domestic violence: 865-7712
Mediation/evaluation/alternative dispute resolution: 865-7639
Research, evaluation, and statistics: 865-7555
Standards and programs: 865-7554
Training and education: 865-7556

Forms, Judicial Council: 865-7681,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/
Grants: 865-7705

Judges

Appointments

All levels: Governor’s Judicial Appointments Secretary, 916-324-7039
Appellate: Chair, Commission on Judicial Appointments, Supreme Court of California, 350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-3600

Complaints

Sitting: Commission on Judicial Performance, 557-1200
Retired: 865-7638

Judicial Council, services to
Secretariat and Conference Services: 865-7640, jcservices@courtinfo.ca.gov
Jury reform: 865-7589

Legal: 865-7446
Alternative dispute resolution: 865-7691
Civil procedure: 865-7665
Conservatorship: 865-7665
Criminal law and procedure: 865-7688
Delay reduction—civil: 865-7665
Economic litigation: 865-7669
Employment law: 865-7545
Evictions: 865-7669
Guardianships: 865-7665
Labor law: 865-7803
Landlord-tenant: 865-7665
Probate: 865-7665
Small claims: 865-7669
Standards of Judicial Administration: 865-7825

Strategic planning

Community-focused court planning: 865-7709, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/court_planning.htm
Judicial Council strategic plan: 865-7708, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/1_annualreports.htm#LeadingJustice
Technology policy and planning: 865-7431
Three-strikes law: 865-7650
Trial courts, services to
Change of venue: 865-7638
Coordination of civil actions: 865-7630
Court administration procedures (court holidays, fax filing, forms, rules): 865-7685
Grant coordination: 865-7705
Human Resources—Trial Court Assistance Unit: 865-4269
Judicial assignments: 865-7638
Judicial benefits: 865-4323
Local rules: 865-7669
Traffic: 865-7611
Trial court budget support (AB 233): 865-7553
Unification (SCA 4): 865-7708
Vexatious litigants: 865-7593

Photo: William A. Porter

COURT NEWS

JULY 15–18	National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Annual Conference, Monterey
JULY 15–20	National Association for Court Management Annual Conference, New Orleans
SEP 6–9	California State Bar Annual Meeting, Anaheim
SEP 20–23	California Judges Association Annual Meeting, San Jose

● Contact: Secretariat and Conference Services, 415-865-7640, or e-mail: jcservices@courtinfo.ca.gov. Judicial Council meeting information is also posted on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/.

● Contact: Administrative Education, 415-865-7745.

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